United Nations E/C.20/2017/7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 May 2017

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Seventh session
New York, 2-4 August 2017
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report, prepared with the assistance of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, on the legal and policy issues to be considered in developing a framework to support global geospatial information management in the public and private sectors, including issues related to authoritative data. The report will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and express its views on how to address legal and policy issues, including those which relate to authoritative data.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

17-08218 (E) 250517

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Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/105, in which it noted a number of legal and policy issues that confirmed the essential need for all legal and policy frameworks that could have an impact on geospatial information to be developed in partnership with the geospatial and legal communities and with regard to other related areas of work of the Committee. In this regard, the Committee of Experts welcomed the convening of the International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management in Kuala Lumpur on 18 and 19 October 2016, in collaboration with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific.

In its report, prepared with the assistance of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, the Secretariat updates the Committee of Experts on the issues that have an impact on the requisite legal and policy frameworks and on the outcomes of the International Forum. In the declaration issued at the Forum, participants called for the establishment of a working group to enable the global geospatial community to engage in discussions on policy and legal issues that could have an impact on the collection, licensing and use, privacy, provenance and accessibility of geospatial information. In the report, the Secretariat also describes the production of a new compendium on the licensing of geospatial information and updates the Committee of Experts on interactions with the International Bar Association.